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Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 6-10 June 2016

Report of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 56/24 V, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and decided to convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue of which were to be decided by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The Assembly also decided to convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis, commencing in 2003, to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/72 and 59/86, the first two biennial meetings were held in New York, from 7 to 11 July 2003 and from 11 to 15 July 2005. In accordance with Assembly resolutions 58/241 and 59/86, the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006. Pursuant to resolutions 61/66 and 62/47, the third biennial meeting was held from 14 to 18 July 2008 and, pursuant to resolutions 63/72 and 64/50, the fourth was held from 14 to 18 June 2010. Pursuant to resolutions 65/64 and 66/47, the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (the Second Review Conference) was held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012.

3. In its resolution 67/58, the General Assembly decided, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2012 to 2018 agreed at the Second Review

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Conference, to convene, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States, in New York in 2014 and 2016, and a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015, to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

4. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/58, the Fifth Biennial Meeting was held from 16 to 20 June 2014. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/51, the second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held from 1 to 5 June 2015.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration

5. The Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was held at United Nations Headquarters from 6 to 10 June 2016, during the course of which eight meetings were held to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action.

6. Secretariat services were provided by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided support on substantive issues.

7. The Sixth Biennial Meeting was opened by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, who also conducted the election of the Chair.

B. Officers

8. At the 1st meeting, on 6 June 2016, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

Chair:

Courtenay Rattray (Jamaica)

Vice-Chairs:

Czech Republic, Djibouti, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland.

C. Adoption of the agenda

9. Also at the 1st meeting, the provisional agenda (A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/L.1) was approved as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement of the Chair.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

5. Election of other officers of the meeting.

6. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at the national level, at the regional level — including through regional and subregional arrangements and organizations — and at the global level, and in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument.

8. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building:

   (a) Ways to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology;

   (b) Ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including financial and technical assistance.

9. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

10. Consideration of the draft final document.

11. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting.

10. At the same meeting, the provisional programme of work (A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/L.2) was approved.

D. Rules of procedure

11. Also at the 1st meeting, it was decided that the rules of procedure of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/16) would be applied mutatis mutandis.

12. At the same meeting, a decision was taken on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Sixth Biennial Meeting.

E. Documentation

13. The documentation of the Sixth Biennial Meeting will be issued in document A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/INF/2.

14. National reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument were submitted to the Sixth Biennial Meeting by the following 84 States: Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Benin,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Mali, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia.

III. Proceedings

A. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, at the national level, at the regional level — including through regional and subregional arrangements and organizations — and at the global level, and in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

15. Agenda item 6 was considered at the 1st to 3rd and 6th meetings, on 6, 7 and 9 June 2016. At the 1st meeting, the Permanent Representative of Kenya, Macharia Kamau, in his capacity as Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and co-facilitator for the consultations and intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, made a statement on the linkage between the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. Also at the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Yemen (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), the European Union, France, Mexico, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Austria, Iraq, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, China, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Ukraine, Australia, Pakistan, South Africa, Japan, Argentina, Paraguay, Cuba, Spain, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, the Russian Federation, India, Guatemala, Jamaica, Zambia (on behalf of the Group of African States), Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria and Cambodia, as well as by the observer of the African Union. At the 2nd meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Israel. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Benin, Uruguay, the United States, Finland, Brazil, Morocco, Qatar, Somalia, Colombia, Zambia, Thailand, Peru, Sweden, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Togo, Namibia and Senegal. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Lesotho, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mali.

B. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument

17. Agenda item 7 was considered at the 3rd and 4th meetings, on 7 June 2016. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by a representative of the Australian Crime Commission, Gary Fleetwood, and a representative of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Emmanuel Roux. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, the United States, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Pakistan, Japan, Indonesia, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Spain, Thailand, Australia, China, Guatemala, Israel and Cuba. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ghana (also on behalf of a number of States),[1] Senegal and South Africa.

C. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building

1. Ways to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology

2. Ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including financial and technical assistance

18. Agenda item 8 was considered at the 4th and 5th meetings, on 7 and 8 June 2016. At the 5th meeting, the Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs made introductory remarks on international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Indonesia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Nigeria, Algeria, Iraq, China, Switzerland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Australia and France. At the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Indonesia, Australia (on behalf of donors to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation), Pakistan, the United Kingdom, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Jamaica, Thailand, Myanmar, Turkey, Germany, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Qatar, Colombia, Egypt, Sweden, Ghana, Peru, the United States and Togo. Also at the 5th meeting, the Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch responded to questions and comments, while additional questions and comments were posed by the

[1] Argentina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uganda.

representatives of Australia, Cuba, Pakistan, Germany, Ecuador and the European Union, in response to which the Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch provided further clarifications.

D. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

19. Agenda item 9 was considered at the 6th meeting, on 9 June 2016. Statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism and by the observers for the African Union, the East African Community, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, the Organization of American States, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Economic Community of West African States. Statements were also made by the representatives of the International Action Network on Small Arms, the Defense Small Arms Advisory Council, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute and the World Forum on Shooting Activities. After a brief suspension of the meeting, further statements were made by the representatives of France, the Russian Federation, Germany, Bulgaria, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and Mexico.

IV. Adoption of the draft final document

20. Agenda item 10 was considered at the 7th and 8th meetings, on 10 June 2016. At the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia (on behalf of a number of States)[2] and the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the 8th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Egypt, Australia, Paraguay, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Japan, Sweden, Morocco, Guatemala, Mexico, Argentina, China, Thailand, Israel and the United States. At the same meeting, it was decided to include in the present report the outcome of the Sixth Biennial Meeting on agenda items 6 to 9 (see annex).

21. One delegation disassociated itself from paragraph 9 of the final outcome document.

[2] Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Zambia.

V. Adoption of the report

22. At the 8th meeting, on 10 June 2016, the participants considered and adopted the draft report of the Sixth Biennial Meeting (A/CONF.192/BMS/2016/L.3), as orally amended, and authorized the Chair to finalize the report.

Annex

Outcome of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

1. In the context of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, States considered the implementation of the Programme of Action and of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons.

2. States reiterated their grave concern about the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread in many regions of the world, which have a wide range of humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, such as impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflict, and pose a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, subregional, regional and international levels.

3. States reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to their obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as those set out in the Programme of Action, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs.

4. States reiterated that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, in accordance with the sovereignty of States and their relevant international obligations.

5. States welcomed the progress made in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument since their adoption, including progress on the establishment, strengthening and enforcement of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent the illicit trade and illegal manufacture of small arms and light weapons, the development of national action plans, the establishment of national points of contact, the submission of voluntary national reports and the strengthening of subregional and regional cooperation. They also welcomed progress made in implementing stockpile management and security, the collection and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons, the marking of small arms and light weapons, technical training and information-sharing.

6. Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States noted the continuing challenges to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance, as well as the implications of new developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

7. Building on the agreed outcome documents of the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of

Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (the Second Review Conference) and the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, also bearing in mind the discussions of the second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action, including the chair's summary, and preparing the ground for a substantive, forward-looking third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, States underlined the continued relevance and vital importance of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument over the period from 2012 to 2018, in accordance with the implementation measures adopted at the Second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/2012/RC/4, annexes I and II) and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/58.

I. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, at the national level, the regional level – including through regional and subregional arrangements and organizations – and at the global level, and in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

8. States reiterated the importance of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, inter-agency coordination, and, where they exist, national action plans for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

9. States noted that some States apply relevant provisions of the Programme of Action to material additional to that mentioned in the International Tracing Instrument definition of small arms and light weapons, while recognizing that other States were of the view that such material was outside the scope of the Programme of Action.

10. States noted the increase in the illicit online trade in small arms and light weapons.

11. States underlined the growing importance of brokering activities in the international transfer of small arms and light weapons and noted the need to establish adequate national control measures to prevent illicit brokering.

12. States emphasized the importance of end-use certification in small arms and light weapons export licensing procedures.

13. States recognized that the choice of standards and procedures that they establish for the management and security of small arms and light weapons

stockpiles, in line with the provisions of the Programme of Action, is a national prerogative.

14. States noted the importance of the adequate management of national small arms and light weapons stockpiles, including sustainable life-cycle management, for minimizing the risk of diversion, including through theft, loss and unauthorized re-export, of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, for preventing accidental explosions and protecting the environment, and for improving the control and storage of, and record-keeping relating to, small arms and light weapons.

15. States stressed the importance of stockpile management and security, not only for the storage of small arms and light weapons, but also for their transportation, movement and transfer, at the national level.

16. States noted that the inadequate management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons remains a concern, due to the risk of their diversion to illicit markets.

17. States recognized the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit use of small arms and light weapons for terrorism and transnational organized crime.

18. States noted the opportunities new technologies, when available, can offer for enhanced small arms and light weapons stockpile management and security, including through improved marking and record-keeping, and for the destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons that they have designated for destruction.

19. States noted that voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action can serve, inter alia, to provide a baseline for measuring progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action, build confidence and promote transparency, provide a basis for information exchange and action, and to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources and expertise.

20. States highlighted the utility of exchanging information on standards and practices they use to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

21. States noted the policy implications of the three-dimensional printing of small arms, including the problem of illicit manufacture of such arms, for the implementation of the Programme of Action.

22. States noted the linkages between the implementation of the Programme of Action and other relevant subregional, regional and global instruments in which they participate.

23. States welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

24. States acknowledged, in line with the 2030 Agenda, that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development.

25. States noted that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has implications for the realization of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to peace, justice and strong institutions, poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality, and safe cities and communities.

26. States underlined the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument for attaining Goal 16 and target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

27. States encouraged, where appropriate, the development of indicators at the national level, based on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, which could be used to measure progress made in the implementation of target 16.4.

28. States acknowledged the importance of addressing the root causes of armed conflict, armed violence, terrorism and transnational organized crime in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

29. States reaffirmed the importance of promoting dialogue and a culture of peace through education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, involving all sectors of society.

30. States noted that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action helps to prevent the acquisition of small arms and light weapons by terrorists, thus reducing the potential impact of their attacks.

Way forward

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States undertake:

31. To ensure that destroyed and deactivated small arms and light weapons are rendered permanently inoperable such that illicit reactivation is physically impossible, and recognizing the value of relevant best practices in this regard.

32. To encourage the utilization of good practices and lessons learned, including the voluntary use of standardized implementation guidelines for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

33. To strengthen national border controls, where appropriate, by establishing and enforcing laws, regulations and administrative procedures that effectively combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders.

34. To reinforce, as necessary, cross-border cooperation at the national, subregional and regional levels in addressing the common problem of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, with full respect for each State's sovereignty over its own borders.

35. To coordinate, as appropriate, implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level with relevant subregional, regional and international instruments, and with related issues and processes, including those concerning disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; border controls; organized crime; terrorism; urban crime; relevant resolutions of the United Nations; and related capacity-building initiatives.

36. To take into account complementarities between the Programme of Action and relevant subregional, regional and global instruments in which Member States participate, including those that are legally binding, in order to enhance, as

appropriate, coordination at the national level on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

37. To share best practices in physical stockpile management and security, as well as in permanent weapons deactivation, in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.

38. To continually assess national stockpiles for surpluses and to responsibly dispose of small arms and light weapons that no longer meet operational needs, preferably through destruction.

39. To submit voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the third review conference, to be held in 2018, in a timely manner.

40. To make use of, as appropriate, reporting under the Programme of Action in reporting under other instruments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and subregional and regional instruments, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens.

41. To encourage States, in reporting on their implementation of the Programme of Action, to highlight progress made in implementing the relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

42. To request the Secretariat, to examine, within existing resources, implementation trends, challenges and opportunities relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, based on available information, including information submitted and/or provided by Member States, for presentation at the third review conference for its consideration and appropriate follow-up. Prior to their presentation at the third review conference, the findings and recommendations will be shared with Member States in informal meeting(s).

43. To establish or strengthen, where appropriate, subregional, regional and cross-regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, including the sharing of best practices, in order to support implementation of the Programme of Action.

44. To draw, as appropriate, on subregional and regional efforts, including those of the regional centres for peace and disarmament, to develop and share best practices and standards for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

45. To encourage, where relevant, subregional and regional organizations to align the timing of their meetings with the global cycle of meetings, so as to ensure, as appropriate, a maximum of synergies between actions taken at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, such as improved efficiency and the enhanced sharing of information and good practices.

46. To encourage cooperation, coordination and information-sharing between relevant subregional, regional and international organizations, specifically with a view to avoiding the duplication of efforts in implementing the Programme of Action.

47. To encourage regional and subregional organizations to identify areas of comparative advantage in assisting States in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

48. To strengthen the role of the regional centres for peace and disarmament in supporting implementation of the Programme of Action.

49. To develop, as appropriate, in coordination with relevant subregional and regional organizations, proposals for assistance in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

50. To encourage meetings of national points of contact in order to strengthen coordination and the exchange of information and best practices between States, including at the subregional and regional levels.

51. To identify opportunities for strengthening the measurement of progress in national implementation of the Programme of Action.

52. To encourage, as appropriate, the contribution of civil society and of industry to the implementation of the Programme of Action and, in the light of the 2030 Agenda, to encourage the establishment and strengthening of cooperation and partnerships at all levels.

53. To take advantage of national reports under the Programme of Action so as to support data collection for relevant indicators relating to the Sustainable Development Goals.

54. To encourage States and the World Customs Organization, as well as other relevant organizations, to enhance cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in identifying and acting against groups and individuals involved in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients.

55. To encourage the Security Council to consider, on a case-by-case basis, enhancing the role of United Nations peacekeeping missions, in line with their guiding principles, their mandates and capacities and with the consent of host States, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

56. To take account, in post-conflict reconstruction programmes, where appropriate, without prejudice to the mandate of relevant bodies of the United Nations and with the consent of the concerned State, of the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including through peacebuilding and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

57. To take account, in post-conflict settings, of the needs of affected States for assistance in implementing the Programme of Action.

58. To take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys in policies and programmes designed to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

59. To promote the meaningful participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action, including their participation in national small arms commissions and in programmes relating to community safety and conflict prevention and resolution, taking into account General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and subsequent resolutions on that question, as well as Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and follow-up resolutions.

60. To encourage the collection of disaggregated data on gender and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular for the purpose of improving corresponding national policies and assistance programmes.

61. To seriously consider increasing funding for policies and programmes that take account of the differing impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

62. To enhance international cooperation in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the counter-terrorism mechanisms of the United Nations, in accordance with their mandates.

63. To consider, at the third review conference in 2018, the implications for the Programme of Action of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

II. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and their implications for the International Tracing Instrument

64. States noted that the effective tracing of small arms and light weapons can serve to strengthen measures that combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

65. States recognized the importance of developing or establishing strict national regulatory frameworks for the marking, recording and tracing of small arms and light weapons, in line with the International Tracing Instrument, including for purposes of enhancing control over small arms and light weapons.

66. States also recognized the importance of marking and record-keeping for the management and security of small arms stockpiles at the national level, including inventory management and accounting control.

67. States noted the linkages between the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for those States that are parties to the Protocol.

68. States noted the complementary role that the exchange of ballistics information and the use of ballistics databases, including the provision of technical and financial assistance for the purpose of strengthening national capacities, can play in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

69. States acknowledged the need to implement the commitments on marking, record-keeping and tracing contained in the International Tracing Instrument, regardless of the materials or methods used in the manufacture of small arms and

light weapons, such as polymer frames/receivers and additive manufacturing techniques.

70. States acknowledged the need to identify in national laws and regulations, including those concerning modular weapons, the essential or structural component for the purpose of unique marking in line with paragraph 10 of the International Tracing Instrument.

71. States noted the policy implications of the three-dimensional printing of small arms, including the problem of illicit manufacture of such arms, for the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

72. States also noted the policy implications of the illicit conversion of replica small arms and light weapons into functional small arms and light weapons for the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

73. States acknowledged the importance of simple reference manuals for the identification of small arms and light weapons.

74. States noted that the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations can support broader conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding policies and programmes involving all relevant parties.

75. States highlighted the value of the exchange of information relating to small arms and light weapons, including tracing information, in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as information on illicit brokering, to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

Way forward

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States undertake:

76. To take advantage of national reports under the International Tracing Instrument so as to support data collection for relevant indicators relating to the Sustainable Development Goals.

77. To continue to mark, record and trace small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

78. To encourage those States and international and regional organizations in a position to do so to provide technical assistance for the development of marking, record-keeping and tracing systems that support the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

79. To enhance dialogue with industry, especially regarding the effective marking of small arms and light weapons, in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

80. To urge States in a position to do so to increase assistance to developing countries in order to bridge the technological divide between States, where it exists, in small arms and light weapons marking, record-keeping and tracing systems.

81. To apply the commitments of the International Tracing Instrument to all small arms and light weapons, regardless of the methods of manufacture, including three-dimensional printing.

82. As necessary, upon request, to assist States and relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as relevant subregional and regional organizations, to build capacity for the collection and exchange of information, including tracing information, on illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations.

83. In accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, to strengthen the tracing of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations, including through the provision of capacity-building assistance, for purposes of identifying and containing the flow of illicit small arms and light weapons into such zones, providing early warning of destabilizing flows of such weapons and preventing conflict, including through the voluntary use of tools such as the Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System of INTERPOL.

84. To encourage States, in accordance with their laws and administrative procedures, relevant United Nations entities, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, in a position to do so and where appropriate, to cooperate and share information relevant to the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons with potentially affected States and with relevant United Nations entities and missions.

85. To enhance the exchange of tracing results between appropriate authorities, in conformity with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets.

86. To make full use of information on illicit trade routes and diversion methods, revealed by tracing, in order to strengthen implementation of the Programme of Action.

87. To enhance cooperation with INTERPOL in identifying and tracing diverted small arms and light weapons.

88. In accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, to share and analyse information relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in order to identify trends and patterns.

89. To strengthen the exchange and use of information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as diversion to illicit markets, including through the use of web-based databases, such as those of INTERPOL (databases of the Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System and of the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network).

90. To consider, at the third review conference in 2018, the implications for the International Tracing Instrument of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

III. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including capacity-building

A. Ways to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology

91. States underlined the importance of sustainable outcomes and impacts when designing and implementing cooperation and assistance programmes and, for this purpose, ensuring such programmes have national ownership and provide for the training of relevant national authorities and for the establishment of personnel career structures that retain, sustain and strengthen knowledge and skills in recipient States.

92. States noted the importance of staff training, adequate infrastructure and equipment, maintenance capacity, inventory management and record-keeping in the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

93. States stressed the importance of the transfer of technology and equipment, and the accompanying need for measures, such as capacity-building, to maintain transferred equipment.

B. Ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including financial and technical assistance

94. States emphasized that international cooperation and assistance remain essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

95. States noted the value of further drawing on the expertise available in developing countries in providing international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

96. States also noted that national reports can be used to identify assistance needs and match them with available resources and expertise.

97. States emphasized that donors should, in consultation with the recipient country, aim to build sustainable capacity by, inter alia, identifying potential barriers to sustainability at the design phase, along with opportunities for complementary programming that can mitigate such barriers.

98. States noted the importance of arrangements that assist in matching needs and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

99. States also noted the opportunity for synergies between projects designed to support implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

100. States further noted the need to update, when required, national action plans in order to reflect, inter alia, progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

101. States acknowledged the need for continued and sustainable financial and technical assistance in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, also in the light of related commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Way forward

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, States undertake:

102. To explore options for building sustainable capacity for the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons stockpiles (normative frameworks, structures and procedures, training, personnel management, financing and infrastructure).

103. To take into account, when designing small arms assistance programmes, other related programmes, with a view to avoiding duplication, maximizing coordination and complementarity and enhancing the effectiveness of assistance programmes.

104. To urge States in a position to do so to build sustainable capacity in collaboration with requesting States, including through the provision of related equipment, for enhanced information exchange and cooperation for the purpose of combating the illicit cross-border trade in small arms and light weapons.

105. To urge States in a position to do so to build sustainable capacity in collaboration with requesting States for the identification, tracing and control of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations, consistent with the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including through training for law enforcement.

106. To identify synergies between assistance aimed at supporting the marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and that aimed at strengthening the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

107. To increase national capacity to take account of diversion risks when assessing applications for the authorization of exports of small arms and light weapons, and to put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures, consistent with the existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law, to ensure effective control over the export, transit and import of small arms and light weapons, including the use of end-use certification and effective legal and enforcement measures.

108. To encourage States in a position to do so to build sustainable capacity in collaboration with requesting States to report on small arms and light weapons that have been seized and which have been recorded and traced.

109. To urge States in a position to do so to build sustainable capacity in collaboration with requesting States for the sustainable life cycle management of small arms and light weapons stockpiles, including associated equipment and maintenance needs.

110. To ensure the suitability and sustainability of technology and equipment designated for transfer.

111. To encourage States in a position to do so to provide developing countries, upon request, with technology and equipment and related training, and to build maintenance capacity essential for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

112. To improve the coordination of assistance and programmes among donors, between donors and recipients, and among relevant national authorities.

113. To ensure national ownership of international assistance projects by, inter alia, involving national authorities in the project planning and implementation cycle and tailoring assistance to local structures and procedures.

114. To increase the sustainability of international assistance through the allocation by the recipient country of financial, administrative and other resources, bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions.

115. To identify, prioritize and communicate assistance needs, and to develop specific project proposals to that end.

116. To enhance the effectiveness of assistance frameworks by, inter alia, strengthening measurability, evaluation and coordination.

117. To encourage the sharing of information on assistance projects, including lessons learned and best practices.

118. To urge States and relevant regional and subregional organizations in a position to do so to enhance their financial contributions to:

(a) The region-specific trust funds of the regional centres for peace and disarmament;

(b) Other trust fund arrangements of the United Nations system devoted to supporting the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

119. To request the Secretariat, within existing resources:

(a) To update the comprehensive study on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance, including the transfer of technology and equipment particularly to developing countries since 2001, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and to submit this study to the third review conference for its consideration and appropriate follow-up;

(b) To prepare and submit, for consideration at the third review conference, an updated report on options for the enhanced funding of activities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including information on existing funding arrangements, and for the establishment of programmes for the training of relevant officials nominated by their respective Governments;

(c) To continue to collaborate with relevant research and training institutions, particularly those from developing countries, on activities addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including the sharing of rosters of experts, including experts from developing countries, where relevant;

(d) To include among the globally available web-based resources it provides, relevant information, such as studies, publications and other resources, related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

120. To consider, at the third review conference in 2018, ways to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology, as well as ways to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including financial and technical assistance.

IV. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

121. During the discussion of agenda item 9, some States indicated that, without prejudice to the views of other States, in their view, certain issues were important for the implementation of the Programme of Action. On those issues, other delegations expressed a different opinion. The issues included:

(a) Higher risks of diversion to illicit markets in the case of transfers of small arms and light weapons to non-state actors;

(b) Unlicensed manufacturing of small arms and light weapons.